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DIT:Students Union

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DIT Independent



Issue 3

Official Publication of the DIT Students' Union

December 2004

Tradfest
pg17



Guys and
dolls gifts
pg 12 + 13



10k update
pg 4



Happy Christmas my arse, I'd rather get paid... 13 weeks - no shops, no pay!

By Kieran Dineen

"WE have decided to ballot for official strike because financially we can't exist anymore. We have mortgages to pay but the money is not there. Christmas is coming and we can't afford things." Marcella Keane, former shop manager of Aungier Street is out of work for the last 13 weeks. She doesn't know when, or if, she will return to work.

The workers have been balloted and are to begin official strike action. Jimmy Keane, Joan O'Mara, Elizabeth Mills, Kelly McGonagle McDonnell, and Marcella Keane protested outside site campuses to highlight their plight. Marcella says "no one is telling us anything."

Every two weeks the union says it will be resolved. First of all they said it would be open three weeks after trading stopped. In October we were brought back to work under false pretences but we were paid no money. We were told the shops would be open hopefully on the 1st of November." Jarlath Molloy, student union president says that everything said was in good faith. "Every time we are near a breakthrough something happens. We take one step forward only to take two steps back. We would never say a bad word about any of the shop workers. They have all given incredible time and service and we would never try and fob them off", he said. He says they cannot tell the workers more because he doesn't want to give them false hope. The workers were told that they would be back-paid, but this is far from certain. Jarlath Molloy says he is not in a position to clarify this at the moment but said "I would hope that all the workers are taken care of". Marcella Keane says that up until three years ago the shop staff were

always shown the accounts. Since then they have not seen any. "We were always told that things were fine whenever we asked."

This is not the first time this situation has occurred for Jimmy and Marcella Keane. "In 1986 the union and shop managers kept the union afloat. We worked without pay for eight weeks and now they don't want to know" says Marcella. She adds that "The last meeting we had with the union was early October. We were told that hopefully the shops will be open for the first of November. The union has been offered a loan by DIT but seem reluctant to accept it for legal reasons. We hope they do accept the loan and that we are back in work as soon as possible".

Jarlath Molloy hopes that the situation will be resolved soon but he stresses that it is a complicated issue.



Elizabeth Mills, Jimmy Keane and Marcella Keane protest outside DIT Aungier Street



USI take to the streets again in yet another anti-fees protest. Read all about it inside...

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Landlord washes hands of student tenants

By Cian Fitzsimons

TEN students were given four hours notice of eviction following a request to have their washing machine fixed.

The students were told at 2pm that they had until 6pm that evening to collect and pack their belongings and vacate the premises, or forfeit their deposit. Despite the presence of two Gardai from Whitehall station, the scene at 46 Mobhi Road was chaotic when the DIT Independent arrived. The landlord refused to consider the appeals of any of the various students union officials, and accused various individuals of trespassing.

Asked for comment, the landlord said "there will never be another student in this house in my lifetime." One of the SU representatives was heard strongly agreeing with this statement.

It turns out that the landlord was taken off the DIT approved housing list last year, but managed to get back on the list

under her daughter's name. She was involved in legal proceedings over her treatment of a previous tenant earlier this year.

She has claimed that the students were lodgers as opposed to tenants, and were only entitled to a "reasonable amount of notice" under law. DITSU vice-president, Sharon Hughes, called the case "totally unacceptable". She said the case "highlights the need for caution when dealing with landlords, and the necessity of keeping copies of all documents pertaining to the lease."

Housing organisation, Threshold, said the landlord was acting illegally. Three non-student residents were not asked to leave. One of the remaining tenants, John Deeney, said that he has "never had a problem with any of the students, and would stand by any of them."

Following meetings with a solicitor, the evicted students are pursuing the matter through legal channels.



DIT Independent's Cian Fitzsimons, USI and Sharon Hughes with the evicted students.

DIT Independent Survey - How do you feel about your college?

By Hélène Hofman

A recent survey conducted by the DIT Independent found that most students are satisfied with their course, but an overwhelming majority thought that DIT didn't do enough for them. Student reps DITSU have also lost popularity with the student body.

The survey revealed that 98% of students asked were satisfied with their course and lecturers. 13% of those surveyed in the six main sites rated their course as excellent, with 49% rating it as very good and 36% saying it is good. Only 2% thought their course was poor. While only 3% rated the general standard of their lecturers as good, 49% said they were very good and 45% said they were good. Again only 2% said the standard of their lecturers was poor.

As regards student representation by DITSU, opinions were divided. When asked if DITSU provided a good service to DIT students, overall 35% of those surveyed answered yes while 65% said no. Rathmines was torn 50/50 on the question, while north-side colleges Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street were most enthusiastic about their Union with 40% saying that they did provide a good service. Meanwhile only 14% of students surveyed in Mountjoy Square say that they thought the service provided by the Union was good. In Kevin Street 31% were happy with the service, as were 33% in Aungier Street.

When given the chance to elaborate many students attributed negative feelings to the lack of atmosphere in the col-

lege. One Cathal Brugha Street student said: "To be honest I don't even know they exist. There's no student culture here, it's pathetic". Meanwhile the sentiments of the hungry students dominated - students in all sites complained of not having adequate canteen and shop facilities.

When it came to naming the three DITSU sabbaticals, in all cases less than a third could. President Jarlath Molloy fared best with 31% of students recalling his name. 27% cited Sharon Hughes and 20% could name Alan MacStiofain.

All but 3 students surveyed were in favour of having an on-campus bar. Those who opposed it cited the over-emphasis on alcohol in our society and the negative effect a bar could have on attendance to lectures as their reasons against. Those in favour saw a bar as a place for students to socialise and an opportunity to save on expensive Dublin bar prices.

When it came to the facilities provided by DIT 80% thought that their college didn't do enough for them. Sub-standard computer facilities are proved to be a major bone of contention amongst surveyed students, particularly in Bolton Street. One Cathal Brugha student remarked: "Just look around! We have zero facilities for sport, socialising etc. It doesn't feel like a college at all." Meanwhile a Bolton Street summed up the sentiments of many students saying: "There's just no student atmosphere this year."

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"I'm only happy when it rains."

by Tara Finglas

DIT students and other Dublin colleges sprang into action for the 10k walk for Chernobyl. DIT was joined by Trinity College, UCD, DCU and Tallaght IT for the walk that stretched from Trinity College to the Phoenix Park.

Despite torrential rain, spirits ran high as the 1200-1500 students from rival colleges competed to catch onlooker's attention as the walk moved through the city centre. There

ally have to do very little to make a difference in someone else's life," said Katie Kelly, DIT Aungier Street.

As the rain soaked crowd approached its destination of the Phoenix Park, shouts of jubilation and "yeah we did it," thundered out from the megaphone from the top of the bus. Rivalries were forgotten as student patted student on the back for a job well done.

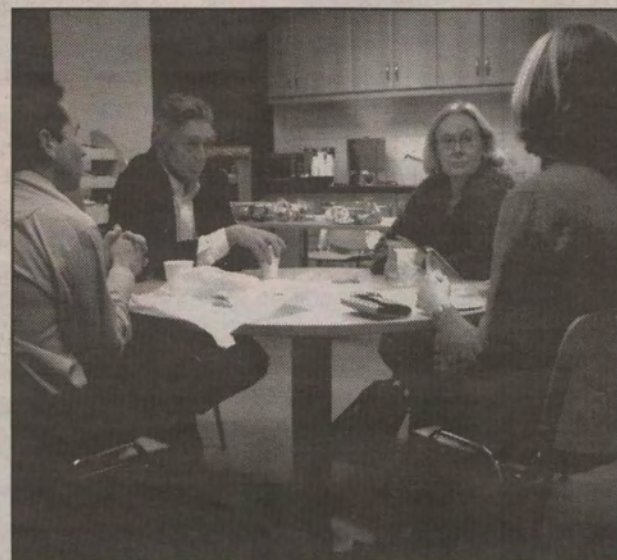
The reason for this wave of solidarity and help is simple, a nuclear accident that shocked the world in

Today the reactor remains shrouded by concrete to prevent further radioactive material escaping. However, this was a rush job and is disintegrating as time goes by. Immediately after the accident 31 people died.

Workers who volunteered to help in the clean-up of the accident were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation.

Russia tried to conceal the accident. The Russian media reported the accident 2 days after it happened.

Students - Let them eat cake



by Kieran Dineen

MOUNTJOY Square canteen is open for business again, but only for lecturers. While students spend small fortunes in nearby coffee shops and convenience stores, lecturers are drinking mugs of hot tea and munching on tasty sandwiches, at rock bottom prices.

The Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) decided to provide the service after the Students' Union owned canteen in Mountjoy Square closed. Campbell's Catering provide the snacks and refreshments for lecturers and staff from a room on the basement floor.

Sonia Renhan of fourth year design thinks the lack of canteen facilities for Mountjoy Square students is disgraceful. "It's ridiculous; we were promised back in September that it would be back in two weeks but now it looks like it won't even be back for Christmas. We are spending a fortune down town. We don't even have hot water and our studios are in a mess because we have no canteen."

Eadoin O Reilly, also fourth year design student says the nearby Londis store is hitting students in the pocket and feels that the price of goods has gone up since the shops and canteen closed. "It's awful, especially when you look at Aungier Street and the facilities they have. Look at Java City."

John O Connor, lecturer in art, design and print said "students are more important than staff. They should be allowed in here. The question is why aren't the Students Union kicking up a fuss about this. If it was another issue they'd be out on the streets protesting and talking to RTE".

DIT cannot open up a canteen facility until the shops issue is resolved due to legal restrictions.

The canteen was bought last year by the DITSU Trading Ltd. The shops in all the sites and the canteen in Mountjoy are currently closed and need 400,000 euro to re-open.



Getting waxed for the 10k walk in Aungier Street.....truly a noble cause (ouch!)

is speculation that the 10k walk maybe moved forward to Spring from next year to avoid torrential downpours and encourage a higher turnout.

The rivalry between the different colleges was contrary to say the least as DCU and UCD bore the brunt of the jokes. A double decker bus from DIT Bolton Street led the way as chants of "fuck u DCU," "D4," and "DIT" rang out through the crowd.

"A little goes a long way and when you're as lucky as we are, you actu-

1986 in Chernobyl, Belarus.

On 26 April 1986, nuclear reactor 4 began to fail in Chernobyl. The Belarusian technicians tried to shut the reactor down but there was a power surge in the system. The 1000 ton roof blew up as powerful explosions erupted in the reactor.

Human error is the prime culprit for the accident. Prior to the accident, technicians disconnected vital safety and cooling systems during unauthorised tests of new electrical equipment.

The World Health Organisation believes that there has been a marked rise of thyroid cancer among children in affected areas.

However, the money raised for the 10k walk to help those affected by the accident could be tainted. The Belarus president, Mr Alexander Lukashenko has limited the number of Belarus children travelling to Ireland for recuperation. He believes that the children return to Belarus with materialistic values.

The Heat is On

by Maeve Mc Laughlin

DIT is still having problems implementing the smoking ban that was introduced in March 2004.

Each morning students and staff of DIT must walk through clouds of smoke because smokers with cigarette butts in hand block the entrances of the

buildings.

Sarah Doyle, Aungier Street, says that this really annoys her because, "it means there is no way of avoiding it".

The Health and Safety Authority has recommended that people should only smoke at a distance of six metres from the nearest window or door, but this rule is clearly not

being obeyed at DIT.

Sarah says that: "more people should be made aware of this recommendation, and it should be enforced".

A member of staff says that signs were placed outside the door of the Aungier Street campus when the smoking ban first came into effect, advising smokers to stand at least six metres from the door.

However, these signs were torn down and, despite constant warnings from the porters

smokers are standing directly at the entrance to the building.

A DIT member of staff believes that it is hard to police people who are smoking outside: "the porters tell people to move away from the entrance, but it is everyone's responsibility to help."

He also says that litter has "definitely gotten worse," outside the colleges since the ban came into effect. He says: "The porters have to keep the place looking respectable.

They sweep outside at least twice a day."

Diane Kenny, from the Office of Tobacco Control says that outdoor smoking areas can be provided, but that they are not obligatory. She warns that employers should be careful if they are providing a smoking area and says "they should locate it so that the risk of exposure to second-hand smoke is minimised."

Degree debut for DIT

by Naill Foley

A ceremony for Graduates of the Faculty of Applied Arts took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday. Two Honorary Doctorates of Philosophy were presented to Louis le Brocquy and Mabel Swainson at this ceremony.

Louis le Brocquy has been a dominant force in Irish art for over five decades. Born in 1916, he left his home-town of Dublin in 1938 to pursue a career as an artist. He has made a massive contribution to modern art in Ireland through the years. His depictions of W.B. Yeats, James Joyce and Samuel Beckett in his 'Head Series' collection are some of his most famous works.

Mabel Swainson is deemed as a very important figure in the history of piano teaching in Ireland. Her contribution to music and music education was acknowledged on Saturday.

Professor Brian Norton, the



President of DIT, said that Louis le Brocquy and Mabel Swainson would be recognized as standard bearers for DIT students graduating at the ceremony that are now starting out on their own careers.

The Graduation Ceremony of DIT's Faculty of Business took place the following Saturday, the 27th November. At this ceremony the DIT awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy to Dublin City Manager, Mr. John Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald has been honoured for his outstanding public service contribution.

Three cheers for engineers!

by Roisin Carroll

Previous encounters with engineering students usually involved a lot of alcohol and plenty of rebel-rousing. I was surprised then to see them in their sober form at the recent Engineering Student Awards and Career Information Night in Kevin St. What I found was a group of students not quite sure what to Expect, but determined to achieve their potential, the beginnings of which were recognised by this ceremony.

While the president admitted that many times, the course is a lot of hard slog and the application of your work can seem non-existent, several guest speakers who had graduated from DIT opened the night with a resounding confirmation of success.

From the first speaker, Mr Steven Borganizer, who graduated 10 years ago, lectured in DIT and now works for Schneider Electric to Martin Barrett who graduated in 2002 and walked straight into a job the next week. All found the courses invaluable. Many commented that the work they did in college stood to them in the workplace.

Awards were presented on the night by the president to a student from each year for high achievement. A special award was given to

Ian Lynch, Michael Sammin won the Fisher award for attendance though Mr. Fisher was in fact, absent on the night. Because of space constraints I can't name all though they deserve recognition. Suffice to say they undoubtedly inspire those yet to come as one first-year commented, "it's a good way to entice you to work."

The stands on display were testimony to the diverse opportunities available to graduates. From the Army to Luas, HP to Kingspan, all promised challenges, travel and exciting opportunities.

DIT engineering courses 'held a lot of weight with employers,'



Jill O'Donnell and Prof. Brian Norton

said Mark Wright of Vodafone. His comment echoes three articles by The Star Malaysian paper commending the quality of DIT courses and its graduates.

FT281/1-Chenze Zhang
FT281/2-Niall Longwill
FT281/3-Yingyi Dong
FT 221/1 Zhen Zhang
FT221/2 Damien Glennon
FT221/3 Asim Mumtaz
DT289/1 David Guerin
DT231/2 Jamie Corcoran
FT008/1 Chris Kinsella
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President's Voice

Hello all,

FOR the second year in a row, Tradfest was a great success! It was run in the Redbox (pictures on the SU website) and the crowd were in high spirits. Thanks to all those involved for running a great show.

Well done to the 10k Walk organisers for organising a terrific day on 18th November; and of course it rained! Congratulations to everyone who raised money and who braved the freezing conditions out to the Phoenix Park. All your efforts are appreciated.

The new SU website www.ditsu.ie is being continually updated and fine-tuned. All suggestions welcome to info@ditsu.ie.

As the paper goes to print, the new DIT legislation goes through "committee stage" in the Dáil and should be passed by the end of the calendar year. The new Grangegorman campus will be then Master-planned by an expert group which should take about 18 months. Check out the DIT website for more details.

As you know our shops and canteen remain closed. They cannot reopen until a rescue package is implemented. The problems we are trying to resolve are complex and numerous. If it was a simple thing, we could have sorted it out 2 months ago. It is not a simple problem though. We would not be working on this if we didn't think it could be saved. Lets hope it can.

As you pack up for the holidays and buy your presents remember those who are in need around us. It's not necessary to travel far to see poverty, homelessness and disadvantage. Remember the unsung heros (including many students) who volunteer in organisations throughout the year, helping those who have been left behind.

If you encounter any problems, have some suggestions or are interested in getting involved, please drop into one of the SU offices where our staff would be happy to advise you further.

Enjoy the break,

Jarlath.

Violence taints budget protest

By Cillian ó Conchúir

THE Union Students of Ireland's (USI) protest march to Dáil Éireann was marred by violent scenes, as members of the protest, including Labour Party Youth and Social Workers Party Youth were restrained by Gardaí.

The protest, involving more than 250 students, started at Parnell Square. As the marchers made their way down O'Connell Street one could have been forgiven to think that this was a political party protest. Placards with "Equality Not Cutbacks," courtesy of the Labour Youth and "Give Us A Break" with Sinn Féin at the bottom, were common place.

The people affiliated with these parties thought it was appropriate, with Jan O'Sullivan, education spokesperson for the Labour Party, stating that: "It's a broad based movement with students, trade unions, lecturers and political

parties involved."

"The protest was badly organised," remarked one student while hand-

Ben Archibald, USI president, was adamant exclaiming that, "It isn't about political parties,"



Gardaí wrestle with students on protest

ing out "Join the Socialists" pamphlets, adding that there was a low representation of students. He said the banners with party names were a sign that students are becoming more political, mentioning the Anti War and Global Justice movements.

and he continued to say that it shows that they are desperate for members. "The protest is of interest to the Student Unions and to students." A welfare officer for the USI said that the fact that the students were out was the most important thing.

The protest, which centred on issues such as grants and the inadequate standard of the education system, was tarnished by scuffles which broke out between members of the protest and members of the Gardaí. A small group of students broke from the main protest and attempted to enter the Dáil. Mr Archibald said that: "some students felt that the peaceful protest wasn't efficient enough," and that they "brought a cloud over the protest."

Superintendent Tom Conway stated that the incident, "just goes to show that rules, which were agreed by the organisers, mean nothing." As the protest began to disperse, Mr Archibald said "Education is a right, not a privilege. We need a education system which doesn't discriminate on the size of your wallet."

Proposal for DIT students in Clubs & Socs to get extra marks

By Jemma Mansfield

A proposal is being put forward to award students for extra-curricular activity. Many students dedicate time and hard work to the Student's Union, clubs and societies, and work in the community. This is work that has often gone unrecognised and uncelebrated, and yet has been an integral part of student life for many DIT students.

The initiative proposed is similar to that which exists in DCU. The Uaneen Module, named after the late graduate and RTE presenter Uaneen Fitzsimmons, is a module which rewards extra-curricular activity. This is an optional additional module and students can be awarded 2.5, 5 or 7.5 credits that are included in the degree parchment.

The aim is for the award to be fully assessed by an Awards Board and an External Examiner. The key mechanism for recognizing significant contribution to college life will be a Portfolio of Achievement that the student will use to record activities and events, leadership roles and skills/knowledge

acquired.

On the assessment board in DCU there is a representative from IBEC (the employers organisation) who support these awards. This is significant for graduates venturing into the work place. If such a system were to be in place in DIT, it would be hoped that a similar representative would be on board.

Anita Conway (DIT Societies Organiser), Jarlath Molloy (DITSU President) and Joe McGrath (Lecturer in the Faculty of Business) are currently planning a proposal for an awards scheme that will recognize the contributions of student activists across DIT.

It is hoped that a document will be produced early in the New Year which will support the introduction of the DIT Extra-Curricular Awards. The aim is to have the scheme operational across DIT by the start of the 2005 academic year. Caroline Nash, IBEC Assistant Director said, "participating in extra-curricular activity is an excellent way to develop those skills that are necessary in the workplace".

Pearse: a politician on the right track

Every month the *DIT Independent* aims to feature interviews with successful former graduates. In this edition *Aimee Vickers* up with **Pearse Doherty**, the promising young Sinn Féin councillor from Donegal who narrowly lost out on a seat in the European Parliament this year. He was born in and now lives in Gweedore.

Doherty graduated from Bolton Street in 1998 where he studied Civil Engineering. However, his enthusiasm for Ireland and all things Irish prompted him to set-up DIT's first Sinn Féin Society, which continues to lobby for the political party to this day.

As the chairperson of the Sinn Féin Society, his enthusiasm for the party's policies was firmly cemented and he decided to put plans to be a Civil Engineer on hold in an attempt to fulfil his political passions.

He believes that his experiences at DIT have helped him get to where he is today. He says that the highlight of his time here was "the public meetings we organised and seeing the huge crowds that would attend".

Mr Doherty says that for the most part his time here was enjoyable. In fact, he also made lifelong friends at DIT, "Some of the people that I met there continued to be best friends. I got married three months ago and my best man was Matt Carty from Monaghan

whom I met at Bolton Street".

On the other hand, it was not always easy being the founding member of a Sinn Féin Society. He says that they had their fair share of difficulties and several attempts to halt their activities were made by both DIT management and the Student's Union. "There is no doubt about it that there were blocks put in

This talk was banned on the day it was to take place". In response to this action Mr Doherty led a protest and chaired several conferences on the issue. He claims that "hundreds of students attended".

The early days of the society were clearly contentious and Mr Doherty says that this was heightened when the Student's

Union refused to fund them.

They responded by setting up under a different name. "The Student Union would not back us so we set-up a political awareness society instead".

As an outspoken critic of government, he is seen as one of the fresh faces of Irish politics.



Sinn Féin's Pearse Doherty

our way...on one occasion we invited two speakers to the college to address the students. These speakers were from the Garvaghy and Ormeau Roads, two areas that had Orange Order marches forced down the road.

Despite his success he maintains that he is not an ambitious man "In 10 years time I see myself playing my part whether that is putting up posters or as a minister it is not a concern of mine".

Golf, Sheep and Leprechauns

Suzanne Lee had images of Ireland before she came here. She outlines how they have changed over the last few months

'Why Ireland?'- I got that question a lot arriving here from the United States several months ago. To make a long story short, I had just graduated from college, and rather than settling for a job asking customers if they wanted to super-size their order, I decided to apply for a postgraduate course abroad. When accepted at DIT, the realisation suddenly dawned on me that I would be going to a country I knew nothing about. I had no Irish heritage, I knew no one who lived in the country, and no one I spoke to had ever visited. My goal was clear: to find out what Ireland was really like.

I guess that my preconceived notions of a green island filled with leprechauns, sheep, cows and drunk redheads who said 'top of the morning' were somewhat skewed. I tried to remember what I had learned in history class, but all I could recall were hazy bits about the IRA and something about potatoes. The movies I watched didn't help much, depicting the Irish as oppressed, indignant, or intoxicated in nearly every film. I even picked up several travel books on Ireland that gave me a better idea geographically as to

where I was headed, but not much else. I would just have to wait until reaching the country to see what it was really like.

Upon arrival, I tried to 'discover Ireland' as a tourist. The Dublin tours didn't help a whole lot when I figured out I was seeing sights that many Dubliners themselves hadn't seen. Frustration overtook me when I took tours to countryside and our bus had to make special stops so the other American tourists could take pictures of sheep and golfers.

My insight into Irish culture began after college began, where I soon learned from my classmates much more about the country than I ever would have as a tourist. Here are some of the main points that I have picked up: not everyone here wears green all the time, no one is after me 'lucky charms', everybody learns the Irish language but few can actually have a conversation, and not everyone has bright red hair. I still have lots to learn, but that's another story.

So, 'why Ireland?' Well, I couldn't tell you why I came here in the first place, but I'm sure having a great time figuring things out while I'm here.

Don't skimp on the underwear this Christmas

by *Ceri Teggin*

Sadly the late nights and bright lights of Christmas can often go to our heads. For many, the temptation to add tinsel to every outfit is strong. Too strong perhaps, leaving some girls unable to draw the distinction between dressing the tree and dressing themselves. So, forget about those flashing Santa earrings and reindeer woolies. With steamy nights by the fireside and masses of mistletoe ahead, prepare yourself for plenty of flesh bearing antics.

With lingerie in mind, the new Agent Provocateur shop in Brown Thomas has us all in the mood for a little naughtiness. Unfortunately, our pitiful student budgets can't stretch to paying €63 for a pair of knickers. So, unless you have a nice rich man buying them for you, perhaps you should head to Ann Summers

(bringing you that bit closer to clinching aforementioned rich man).

Ann Summers underwear is a little raunchy at the best of times, so expect to feel the heat with their festive red lace suspenders and stockings. The saucy Santa style bras, panties, and negligees, come in classic red and white for some dressing up fun. Or, if your style is more the angelic minx check out Triumph's 'Christmas angel' collection. With silver sparkles, white fluff, and little angel wings in all the right places, they are guaranteed to keep you fluttering in heaven for hours.

However, if you require your underwear to be that little bit more functional, and dare I say it, practical, then it might be worth checking out the strapless, backless bras that are bouncing out of the shops this season. Perfect for keeping you inside that tiny Christmas top, these

delightful dainties come in an array of designs.

The newest addition to the fleet is the 'Invisible bra' Retailing at €29.99 in Roches. This silicone contraption looks creepily like a pair of implants. It's all based on an 'exciting new technology' using gel to essentially glue the bra onto your bust. However, after some serious dancing, the silicone's likely to end up clinging rather desperately to your boob like a drunken man's hand.

Using the same concept, but a little cheaper, is the self adhesive strapless bra available in Clerys. Made of 100% surgical tape (always reassuring to hear) this sticky stuff makes sure you stay safely in place for the entire evening, and unfortunately into most of the next week too. When you finally get the courage to rip them off, you'll be wishing you'd spent your €14 on something else.

So, with underwear taken care of, you are now ready to slip into that sparkly party dress. Be prepared to ditch boring red and green in favour of glittering gold and purple. The look is 1920's flapper style, with an extravagant mix of fabrics and colours, draped lavishly with sequins and beads. Dresses are cut on the empire line and waist lines mid thigh, with plenty of ruffles and ribbons. Pile on as much jewellery as you can, the cheaper the better, with semi precious stones jade and amethyst working the best.

If you can't afford to shell out for a new outfit, then revamp your old one with flamboyant accessories. Miss Selfridge has shimmering silver scarves and glitzy gold clutch bags for under €30. Or if you really want to knock them dead, go for gold stiletto sandals teamed with purple, green or gold tights, €11, all from Topshop.

Engineering poetry

THINK poetry and you think of leaving cert essays involving Sylvia Plath sticking her head in an oven and Seamus Heaney's skunk of a wife. Well, you might be surprised to learn, there are some talented and not-so-crazy members of DIT staff who are aspiring poets.

Dermot McGarthy, from the School of Construction skills, has just had a book of poetry entitled "Standing Room Only" published. "The singular theme of the book is the omnipotence of the spirit in our lives" says Dermot.

"I would like to demystify, de-bourgeoisie poetry because a lot of people get the vibe of poetry being like William Blake or Coolidge or Tennyson or Shakespeare but it is not like that at all. I mean Eminem is a

great poet today. Bob Dylan is a great poet. John Lennon was a great poet. Bono is a poet. He is a great poet. He is a great lyricist. That is poetry for me."

His student's reaction to his poetry writing is mixed. "Some of them are intrigued. Some of them are not interested because they would not be interested in poetry".

"Generally, I would encourage everybody to write poetry. For me, it's a kind of religion almost, poetry. I think it is a great way of expressing oneself. My central point is that everybody has a creative expression root in them. A mechanic can fix engines. A footballer, he hones his skills on a football field. A great guitarist plays his guitar. I do all that through poetry; through words is my gift of expression."

"I deal with carpenters, with painters, with plasterers. They

are creative in what they do, it is just a different medium and that is my whole view on poetry".

Russ Merne, a laboratory technician in the controls lab in Bolton St., was the winner of the poetry section in the literary competition of Swords Heritage Festival.

His winning poem, "Imagine", earned him the prestigious title of "Poet of Fingal", a perpetual trophy, and a cheque for €250.

His colleagues have had a good reaction to the poem, "It resonates differently with different people. Quite a lot of people seem to have liked it. It is very simple, straight from the heart and I believe in being concise. I don't waste words with long meanders about things."

"A few people have actually stopped me in the corridor and congratulated me...I don't think that just because you are in

engineering means that you can't have interests in other things like art, music or acting".

"Technology is quite different from any form of literature. My

on personal experience. I don't write about things that I don't know about and I don't try to be clever. If you are clever, hopefully, it will show."



Dermot McGarthy, poem writer.

attitude towards technology is that I enjoy it but I found that it doesn't answer the bigger questions might have."

"A lot of my poetry is based

*Dermot's book is available in the "Book Upstairs" bookshop at 39 College Green, priced at €15.00.

Jingle Bells or Shopping Hell?

With the countdown to Christmas well underway shopping in Dublin for many has become a nightmare. Vicky Cullen braved the scary shops of Dublin to investigate the Christmas madness

IN the run up to the snowy season - or disappointingly rainy season - no one can decide whether to be excited about greeting Santy, or to dread the choking sounds of the pass machine, as it dribbles out the last of the 'emergency use only' funds!

Sadly for me, it's definitely the latter! On the outside, Grafton Street glows in mistletoe, holly, and all things festive and frilly. The reality however is a ticking time-bomb of shops and staff bracing themselves for the Christmas killing. I decided to have a closer look at this phenomenon and see if this frenzied shopping hysteria had actually begun to haunt our streets.

And it has.

According to an array of top shops on Grafton Street, the droves are already waking up ridiculously early at weekends and massing in our little city, complete with shopping armour - extra spongy shoes for prolonged shopping ability, cash in their pocket for that well-earned coffee break and the infamous

Christmas list.

Shops including Korky's, Miss Selfridge, Vera Moda, Carphone Warehouse, Awear, Boots and Footlocker have already experienced sales percentage increases from 10- 30 per cent in the last two weeks alone. Staff and managers in these high street shops are expecting sales increases of up to 50 and 60 per cent in the coming weeks.

That means, well, a lot of shoppers. Not to mention the overheated shops, items strewn everywhere from each stampede, exchanges, complaints, waiting lists for coveted items and the pure persistence of some shoppers.

Andy Ryan, a security guard on lower Grafton Street confirmed the growing crowds: "It's getting so packed these days it's impossible to see the walls of the shops never mind to see what people are nicking."

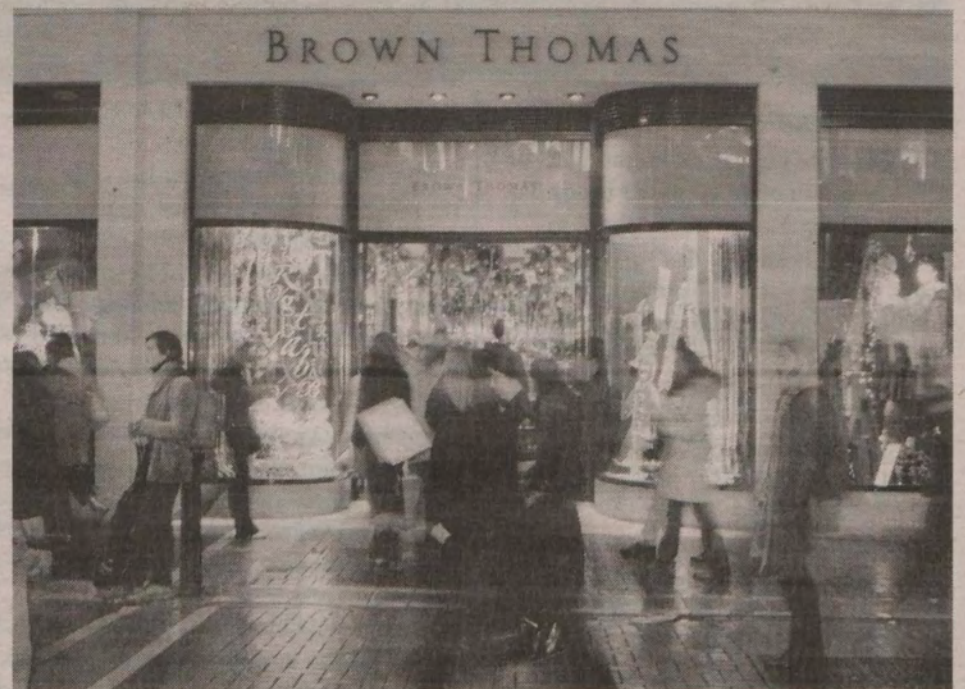
So what about us - the poor student spongers? Well considering only one of the above shops offers student discounts, Miss Selfridge, I guess it's each to their own, or for me, a trip to my favourite and most reliable outlet, Penneys the shop with a warm heart and open arms for the 'more studious' citizenry. On my travels I found it intriguing to see what were already becoming the Christmas bestsellers. These ranged from snow boots in Korky's, glitzy Christmassy evening-wear in Miss Selfridge, cosy cardigans in Awear and adult and child Timberland boots in

Footlocker. It all quite reminds me of something you might see on a Woolworths or Gap ad, not too exciting, but quaint nevertheless.

We'll just have to wait with bated breath to see Pat's toy show this year to see the hot stuff. You know we all watch it! But by far the most unique Christmas bestseller, apparently guaranteed every year, was discovered when I paid a visit to the Boots healthcare assistant Antoinette Carron who imparted some fascinating news to me. Ms Carron swiftly guided me to the contraception

area and pointed to a shelf as she said: "These are definitely the bestsellers before Christmas," as she pointed to the elaborate range of Durex. She then promptly swivelled around to another shelf as she also noted: "...and these are the best selling after Christmas" pointing her finger at a discreetly placed pregnancy test.

It appears the lads have high hopes at the Christmas work party and as far as I can see the girlyies just don't remember it at all.



Brown Thomas on Grafton St. at x-mas

Jesus and Me

by *Damian Stack*

FIRST there was Jesus. Then there was me. In between were Dido, Humphrey Bogart, and Sir Isaac Newton. But forget about them. This is about me and 'the big guy.'

Being born on Christmas day is a cross that those of us unfortunate to be born on that day must carry. It's all about him. Millions of people around the world, including my friends and family, celebrate the birth of the son of god with great gusto.

When it comes to me, however, it is little more than an after thought - if they even bother to think about it at all. I am lucky if somebody remembers that it is in fact my birthday somewhere between the turkey and the Christmas pudd. I have, in fact, even gone as long as St. Stephen's day before getting a "Happy Birthday" - and at that

it's usually little more than an "Oh yeah, it was your birthday yesterday....".

The greatest injustice of all is the fact that everybody only gives me one present

- but don't worry about me, it's a combined "big pressie". Rubbish! I get the same as everybody else gets. I am in a word-shafted.

And then to add insult to injury they call me Damian - granted it is not Christopher or heaven forbid the dreaded Noel (apologies to all Noels out there) - I'm constantly bombarded with Omen stuff "Ha, ha, you're the Anti-Christ and you're born on

Christmas day". That never grows old...honest.

As good old Ebenezer would say - Bah Humbug to Christmas- I want my birthday back!



Euro Saver Drinks Menu

By *Seán O Proinntigh*

AS we all know us students need a break from the rigmarole of college life once in a while. So before I break into the theme tune from Cheers, here is my solution to our monetary woes and thirst for relaxation. A new era is upon us friends, one which ushers in affordable drinks in agreeable environments, yes pints at "three yo-yos a go" (€3 per pint). Here are my top four pubs and their reasonably priced pints.

One pub, which is located close to both DIT Kevin St. and Aungier St, is The Globe on Georges St. who have brought in Bavaria on tap. Some people who may have reservations when they hear the name Bavaria, or its counter-part Dutch Gold, will be pleasantly surprised by how well a cool pint of Bavaria from a glass tastes going down. The Globe, apart from a mediocre jukebox, is a nice spot that welcomes students with open arms and is a good candidate for your lunchtime local. Next up on the list is the Turks Head in Temple Bar brandishing Fosters at

a measly three euros. Fosters, an Australian favourite, has a nice wheaty taste and perfectly complements the vibrant atmosphere in the Turks Head- a top pub. A bit off the beaten track for the Kevin St. and Aungiers St. massive, but a close port of call for Bolton St. students, is Bodkins-now with Labatts residing behind its bar. Labatts is a Canadian brew bearing a similar taste to its Canadian cousins Chiller (of Porter House fame) and Moose Head. Bodkins has great music for those with alternative tastes and is quite easy on the eyes. Finally a personal favourite of mine, and anyone else who lives by the "if in doubt a pint of stout" motto, is Karma (part of Handels) in the Christ Church vicinity. Here you'll find a vicious pint of Guinness for three-euro. Karma boasts some excellent music with an oriental theme and a warm feel which is well balanced when accompanied by an ice cold Guinness. There is my definitive list of pubs for the poor man in all of us. Use it wisely, drink responsibly and remember assignments do not write themselves.



Desktop.



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Irish Independent

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What Men want

by Keith Reilly

Girls, if you're struggling to think of something for your man this Christmas, look no further. Maybe you've been seeking that elusive something that sums up your relationship just so, but keep one thing in mind: you can spend days on end agonising over the perfect token of your affection, but HE WON'T APPRECIATE THE EFFORT.

There are some simple guidelines to follow when buying for guys, guaranteeing maximum satisfaction from minimum effort:

1. Gift vouchers are fine if you're stuck. Under no circumstances will your Casanova complain. After all, it's probably prevented you from buying him some sh*t like Maroon 5's new album (which you've really bought for yourself) or a pair of 'practical' woolly gloves.

2. Never, ever presume to know what your man will and will not wear. The likelihood is that you're trying to dress him as you think he should be dressed. Unless he's dropped an extremely broad hint in the run-up to Christmas (e.g. "get me that"), you're playing with fire. The one raging certainty is that he'll never wear it except in your company.

3. Remember that men are merely economy-sized boys, and never truly manage to break free from their inner child. Hence, there's a better than average chance that they've got either a PlayStation 2 or an Xbox nestled neatly beside the TV in their room.

If the love of your life fits into the latter bracket, then your Christmas shopping can be simplified significantly. For the princely sum of £60, you can etch your name indelibly in his good books. How? You have two choices: Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas for the PS2, or Halo 2 for the Xbox.

These big boys in the console market were unleashed on the public well before the seasonal rush. GTA: San Andreas was released at the end of October for PlayStation 2 amid a blaze of hype, and was greeted by a record-breaking 677,000 European sales in its first weekend. It's certain to be a massively popular choice amongst blokes hungry for more gun-toting, granny-bashing mayhem.

For anyone who's been living under a rock over the past two or three years, the GTA series has come of age in spectacular style on the PS2. San Andreas follows in the best-selling wake of both GTA 3 and Vice City. It retains the basic gameplay rules that have served the series so well, i.e. there are no rules. From the second the game begins, you're free to

mug, kill, steal and joyride to your heart's content.

You play ex-con Carl "CJ" Johnson, returning to his hood after a spell in the joint. The storyline is a blatant nod to hood films such as *Boyz n the Hood*, but the beauty of the GTA games is that the plot is only as important as you make it. Events surrounding CJ and his gang evolve through the completion of numerous missions, but you're free to wander for as long as you want. With a living, breathing environment roughly six times as big as Vice City to explore and dismantle, San Andreas offers a daunting amount of scope for gamers willing to unlock all of its secrets.

It may have its flaws - the targeting system is still dodgy, and the characterisation of your 'hood buddies borders on blaxploitation - but a sprinkling of new features and classic, anarchic gameplay make it a must for PS2 owners.

The equally long-awaited Halo 2 arrived in shops on November 11, and is a raging certainty to be the best-selling Xbox game this Christmas. The original game almost single-handedly announced Microsoft's console to the world, and the follow-up delivers more of the same hi-octane first-person shooting.

Continuing where Halo left off, you once again take control of the Master Chief in the battle

against the alien Covenant and the parasitic Flood. In a neat twist, you'll also be able to control one of the Covenant Elites as they bid to recover from their defeat in the first game.

New features include a smattering of new human and alien weapons, including the extremely cool Sentinel Beam. More importantly, you're now able to wield two of the smaller weapons simultaneously in either hand, although you then lose the ability to hurl grenades. It may not sound like a huge addition, but it's hard to describe the satisfaction of firing two submachine guns at once.

Unfortunately, the single-player Campaign mode is a tad short. Most gamers will breeze through the default difficulty setting in under ten hours. However, where this game scores highly over its predecessor is in its multiplayer mode. Halo 2 is Xbox Live compatible, so Xbox owners with broadband access can take part in online deathmatches at any time. With extra multiplayer maps and other downloadable content promised in the future, there really is the potential of almost limitless longevity for Halo fans - and there are plenty of those around.

Buy either of these two and you can't go far wrong unless he's got a Gamecube!





What women want

by Andrea Byrne

Choosing a Christmas gift for the lady in your life is one of the most gruelling and torturous tasks known to man. Are you stumped for ideas on what to get her this Christmas? Would you rather run down Grafton St. naked in the rain than face the hordes of bloodthirsty Christmas shoppers? Well, sit back, relax and I will try and make your task as painless as possible.

All women love to be pampered. Any gifts that fulfil this love will go down a storm and will be appreciated all the more after the late-nights and excessive drinking of Christmas. Pampering gift sets are readily available - I am not talking about The Body Shop Baskets or Boots' Best. To be appreciated and not accused of being a cheap-skate spend NO less than €30.

If you are brave enough to buy your girlfriend clothes for Christmas, here are some things to bear in mind:

1. Buy something based on what you think she WOULD wear as opposed to what you would like her to wear (which is most likely to be the size of a shrunken tea-towel).
2. The ubiquitous little black party dress is always a safe bet. She is certain to get great wear out of it over the festive period.
3. Jeans are a timeless classic. Diesel, Miss Sixty, Seven, Fornarina and Yanuk are extremely popular brands for women. Low-waisted jeans are undoubtedly the most popular; make sure and steer clear of the tapered, high-waisted kind. Buying low-rise jeans for your girlfriend can however go terribly wrong. I would advise that you get to know her sizes. Do you want to be responsible for her sitting with her back to the wall all night for fear of over-exposure?
4. Shoes and Bags: All women love shoes and bags (if they claim not to, then IT has been lying to you all this time - IT is not really a woman). For the

Topshop and Oasis offer equally trendy yet more affordable alternatives. If you aspire to be the perfect boyfriend this Christmas, a designer handbag is your



route to ultimate exaltation. DKNY bags are the most reasonably priced with prices starting from around €80. Gadgets are beyond the comprehension of most women. However, every woman will appreciate a mini Ipod, retailing from €271. Expensive, I know, but think of the positives ... Does your girlfriend talk or nag too much? - If so, look on a mini Ipod as a long-term investment; certain to silence your lady well into the spring. Digital cameras are also one of this Christmas' coveted presents. There are some particularly fancy phones on the market this Christmas. The Motorola V600 Platinum Swarovski Crystal Cover, the Nokia 7610 one-megapixel camera phone and the glamorous new Nokia 7200 will be definite winners with the women.

Of course there are the old reliable fail-safe presents. On of the best perfumes on the market this Christmas is Michael Kors crystal monogrammed perfume. You can add that extra touch by personalising your Michael Kors fragrance bottle with your girlfriend's initials in sparkly crystals.

Jewellery is always a welcome gift. However, Argos' Elizabeth Duke is strictly off-limits. Newbridge Silverware and chunky costume jewellery will be gratefully received. Buying make-up can be tricky, familiarise yourself with the brands and more importantly the colours she uses. You could be to blame for her looking like a Halloween pumpkin.

It is all about the brand when buying lingerie; the most popular brands include Love Kylie, Elle MacPherson Intimates, Agent Provocateur and La Senza. Some words of wisdom: Make sure not to oversize the briefs and undersize the bra. Surprise your loved one with an unusual gift this Christmas. Hot-air balloon rides, flying lessons, or pampering mini-breaks will be greatly appreciated. You could even go that extra mile by naming a star after your loved one.

So Boys, Happy Christmas and Happy shopping but before I sign off here are two pieces of advice

1. Proceed with care
2. Keep the receipt!



fashion-conscious female, round-toe boots are this season's must-have. If you have the cash to splash, get your derrière down to BTs, where you are certain to find your special lady dazzling designer footwear. Thankfully, however high street stores such as River Island,

Eastern Promise

Sarah Cooney went on a grand tour of Eastern Europe this summer. Here's the story of her trip.

Czech

First stop Prague. Shattered from a 4am start we stumbled around and collapsed into bed. Next morning we moved onto Brno. My advice - don't go there. A creepy crypt with the preserved bodies of monks resulted in us fleeing with "Tubular Bells" ringing in our ears. The only positive experience was the cheese-stuffed potato pancakes.

Hungary

The Yellow Submarine Hostel became our home in Budapest. Trekking around the city, we fitted in Heroes Square, the magnificent Út Andrassey Boulevard, the castle perched on a hill over-looking the Danube and the "House of Terror" - the former home of the secret police. After a few €0.50 beers at the hostel, a gang set out to find "MuMus" bar. An ordinary door opened to reveal a beautiful star-lit courtyard bar. It was Wednesday so it wasn't buzzing but a fellow traveller assured me that come the weekend it was the grooviest place to be. The next day we needed some R&R and spent the evening at the thermal baths - sweating in the sauna and diving into ice pools.

Croatia

Zagreb is unspoiled by tourism - it was refreshing to see locals in the outdoor cafes. For LOTR fans Tolkein's Bar is a must for themed cocktails. After a chilled day we boarded the train to Split then took a bus along winding coastal roads to Dubrovnik. We stayed with a local lady "Mama" whose husband had a mini-zoo in the garden. The beach beckoned for the evening - albeit a concrete poolside area in front of a bombed-out hotel. The scars of war are all too visible in Dubrovnik. Many buildings are in ruins. However the town is vibrant, but beware, it is a tourist trap.



Entrance to the People's Palace

Serbia-Montenegro

A crazy bus journey - we walked across the border - brought us to Bar in Montenegro. The beauty of the distant misty mountains and the sparkling Adriatic were somewhat obscured by the Royston Vasey "Are you local?" vibe to the town.

Belgrade was an experience. At first glance the city seems to be striving towards cosmopolitanism. However walk up the wrong street and you'll find bombed-out buildings from the recent NATO campaign. Even postcards show bombing instead of picturesque sights.

Bulgaria

By Sofia we were feeling the pain of our dash around the 'new Europe.' The city still has traces of Communism evident in the huge squares and statues. We stumbled upon what we thought was a craft fair but it turned out to be more of a Soviet and Nazi memorabilia fair. However my over-riding memory was the pizza - a huge slice for €0.50.

Romania

Arriving in Bucharest at dawn exposed us to street children sleeping on vents in the parks. The city is a mixture of garish Soviet-era apartment blocks and Baroque architecture. Former dictator Ceausescu demolished swathes of the city in his insane modernisation drive. A long boulevard leads up to the "People's Palace" - the second largest (in area) building in the world. But maintaining extravagance is expensive and the Palace is quite decrepit.

Dracula is Romania's premier tourist attraction. Bran Castle - where Dracula supposedly resided - is unimpressive but the hilltop ruins of Rasnov castle reveal a spectacular panoramic view. The region is beautiful with huge mountains and lush valleys.

Slovakia

Bratislava is one of the smaller European capitals. Remnants of the USSR rub shoulders with imperial culture. From the castle on the banks of the Danube you can gaze at thousands of tower blocks. Bratislava is quite bohemian and our hostel produced a mix of hippie travellers and a Jesus-like figure who slept outside.

Poland

With Krakow as our base we visited the incredible Wieliczka salt mines. The mines contain chapels and even chandeliers carved from the salt-rock.

Auswitchz - the names still resonates with fear. Now it is a museum detailing

the suffering of every ethnic group - from Jews to Poles, Gypsies to Slavs. The nearby Birkenau is far more devastating. Many of the buildings remain intact. The place is eerily silent. The train tracks still lead into it and the smell of death is everywhere.

The Jewish population of Krakow was decimated by the Nazis. However the Jewish quarter remains as a resilient symbol of survival and charming cafes dot the area.

Returning to the Czech Republic

So back to Prague. Our initial enchantment with the city was somewhat dulled by the experiences of the other cities. Prague is beautiful - the Charles Bridge and the castle evoke the vivid imaginings of fairy-tale writers. However rampant tourism has spoiled Prague. The nightclub Karlovy Lazne with five floors is a must for fervent clubbers. And of course you can't go to Prague without trying absinthe - in moderation of course.



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Students, DIT societies need you!

by Nuala Ryan

'Getting more students involved' was the theme running through the Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) conference, held at NUI Galway in November.

The two day conference was attended by delegates from nine different third level institutions, including UCC, DCU, NUI Maynooth and DIT, and was based around the conference title of "Increasing participation and combating apathy".

The conference looked at the various aspects of society life, with delegates and speakers discussing the problems encountered in recent times with students joining and participating in societies, as well

as raising some possible solutions to the problems.

Speakers on day one included Riona Hughes, BICS Vice-Chairperson, who proposed that BICS carry out national research on societies. She proposed a survey on how societies are perceived be carried out in the different colleges by people involved in societies.

David Casey, from the UCC Careers Department, spoke about the benefits of societies in providing students with important skills for the future. He said that employers are looking for students who have been involved in societies during their time in third level education as the skills acquired in their participation can be transferred to other situations.

Accreditation, or the formal recognition of a student's society involvement, was a major topic under debate on day one. The discussion centred on topic on how you assess or grade some-one's participation and contribution to a society. Duncan Mann, from the York St John College in England, spoke on the subject, followed by Yvonne O' Conner from DCU, a college which has an accreditation module in place.

This module, the Uaneen Module, named after the late RTÉ presenter Uaneen Fitzsimmons, is a credit which sits beside your degree, and is awarded on submission of a folder to a review board of the activities you participated in and the benefits of your time with a society.

Day one finished with dinner

and entertainment in the college bar, with the DIT delegates doing their college proud with their (many) karaoke renditions and graceful dancing.

The second, and final, day of the conference began with a presentation on 'Health and Safety in Student Activities' from DCU, NUI Galway and our own Societies Organiser, Anita Conway, from DIT. The presentation emphasised the fact that societies have a legal responsibility to their members.

Following this was a talk from the Marketing and Management department of UCC, which discussed how societies can be made more attractive to students, and thus combat the problem of student apathy.

The majority of day two was

based on this topic, as societies are finding it more and more difficult to recruit new members.

Ian Russell, from Irish Rural Link, spoke of a lack of interest in societies from students, or almost more worryingly, from the student union or those organising the societies. He asked the valid question: Are societies actually doing what students want?

The BICS conference re-emphasised the importance of societies in student life, while also recognising the vital role that the organisation holds in stressing this value and importance as the representative of Universities and Institutes of Technology.

The next major BICS event will be the national awards held in April.

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The EMS samples Europe's finest from home and abroad

by Michael Donohoe

At the start of the summer the Electronic Music Society, along with 85,000 other festival revellers, caught up with the Barcelona leg of the Sonar festival. Spread over three days in mid-June, the now annual festival offers the cream in European dance, drum & bass, techno and hip-hop.

The event was spread across ten venues (ranging from your average club to old airport hangars). The music line-up was, as always, diverse with a new emphasis this year on hip-hop.

The 2004 programme (accused by some of being bland) featured a healthy spread of both international and European acts with a decent local contingent as well. The big crowd pullers of the weekend were Jeff Mills, Dave Clarke, Massive Attack, 2many DJs, Tiga, Miss Kitten and Kid Koala. Carl Cox was also meant to play but for reasons unknown made a last minute cancellation. The much hyped 'Spanish versus International' DJ slot, featuring Ricardo Villalobos and Richie Hawtin, received a lot of attention.

Hip-hop steadily gained ground on the programme this year as well, from the most well known to the underground, from the orthodox to the experimental.

Among the big hitters were Gang Starr, Buck 65 and English artist Roots Manuva, all of which were very well received.

The event returns to Barcelona next June and as yet no artists have been confirmed.

Moving a few hundred miles north and a couple of degrees cooler, October gave us the DEAF Festival in Dublin City. One might perceive this as a slight comedown from the boulevards of Barcelona, but this was not to be the case.

For seven straight days international and local DJs packed out city centre venues such as The Globe, Hogans, Capitol and numerous others.

The main finale of the festival took place in Crawdaddy with local talents playing a prominent role. The night boasted impressive sets from DJs such as Mark Broom and DJ Bone. Donnacha Costello also produced an amazingly energising set that the Dublin crowd were very responsive to.

Although the night was cut short, Detroit act Juan Atkins wrapped up the night's proceedings with one of his trademark sets. This left the crowd very expectant for next year, in a festival that is a gaining a solid reputation.

To find out more about the Electronic Music Society and future events contact emsociety@hotmail.com



Aungier Street's Ciaran Conlon blows his whistle at Trad Fest '04

Frog at Crawdaddy

by Louise Conlon

On the 10th Nov, NeoSuperVital and Le Rocca took to the stage in Crawdaddy for a night of eclectic sounds. The gig was organised by the Music Soc, and Triathlon and Athletics Club, in association with the newly formed PR Soc.

The intimate setting that was Crawdaddy was a perfect location for the gig, and was also host to the launch of Totally Dublin magazine that night. The

DIT students attending the gig mixed perfectly with the hip and funky magazine launch patrons! On arriving, we were handed our token free beer, and it wasn't long before the party was under-

way.

The funky sounds of first Neosupervital, and then Le Rocca carried us through until closing time, when the PR Soc were begging for more!

While the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, the numbers of DIT students in attendance were fewer than expected. This has been the trend for DIT events so far this year.

It's up to us, the students of DIT to support the clubs and societies and the events they organise. Great effort goes into event organisation on the part of all clubs and societies involved, and they deserve the support of the student body.

Photos of the night can be seen at www.perke.com.



DIT Students hit the town again

Steer Weller Clear

By Alana Doogan
Paul Weller -
Studio 150

STUDIO 150 is the latest offering from the Jamster himself but Paul Weller's latest is a real disappointment. On listening to the album, it soon becomes clear that the only thing worse than a poorly produced "Christmas" marketed album is a poorly produced covers album. He doesn't even choose great songs to cover, apart from possibly the most covered songs in the history of crap albums, 'All Along the Watchtower' and 'Black is the Colour'.

The arrangements are basic; he even veers off key on the latter - inexcusable on an album that's not performed live. It sounds as if each song was cut on the first take, without a

warm-up.

There are some nice guitar riffs and some of the instrumentation decorates the songs well, but a hard-hitting song about alcoholism hardly warrants a high-pitched flute motif throughout ('The Bottle').

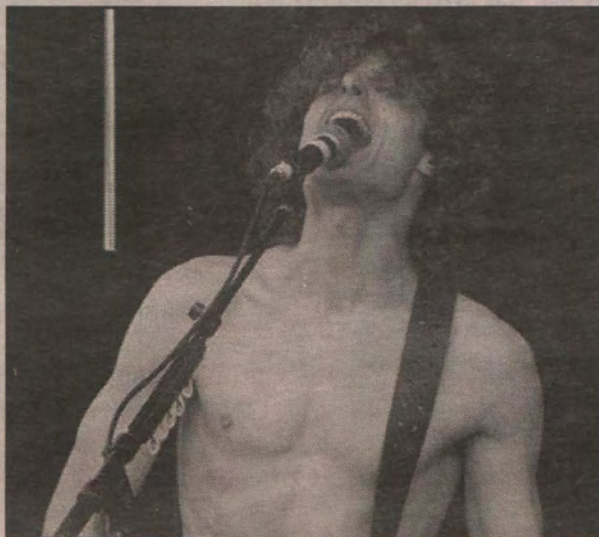
Possibly the worst track on this album is 'Close to you.' His hammering the same piano chord on each syllable of 'just like me, they long to be...' is highly irritating and sounds terrible. The lyrics of the song are completely independent of Weller's arrangement. He might as well be bawling out 'The Fields of Athenry' (which, if this album is anything to go by, may just feature on his next one). Avoid it at all costs, even after its speedy journey to the bargain bin.



Here Comes the Bride

By Ronan Flanagan
Burning Brides -
Leave No Ashes

FIRSTLY set aside any ideas that Burning Brides second studio album, "Leave No Ashes", has anything in common with the dreaded wedding reception tune a la YMCA or The Chicken Dance.



In fact it quite rocks out. No surprises then that over the past few years the Philadelphia-based three piece have appeared with giants like Marilyn Manson, Audioslave and QOTSA on tour.

The unexpected success of their debut album "Fall of the Plastic Empire" helped them gather a very loyal fan base, this latest offering should add to their following if it's

pushed enough.

Despite their heavy rock image the Brides are very accessible and a lot of their stuff is quite melodic and almost like a darker Oasis with an American accent. Songs like "Heart full of Black" as well as "Pleasure in the Pain" will be heard on some main-

stream shows.

But wait, fear not all you rockers as "King of the Demimonde" has a right old guitar thrashing while "Vampire Waltz" sounds rather sinister to boot. A car stereo up to the max really would do either supreme justice.

This album should be allowed to grow on you and after a good few travels in and out of its very stylish album cover Burning Brides might have another fan.

Bloody awful

By Lauren Molloy
Blood Brothers -
Crimes

TO be both harsh and blunt, I can only describe this latest Blood Brother's offering as the oddest musical misdemeanour and the strangest, most painful rendition of disjointed punk.

'Crimes' mingles post modern poetry in the form of taunting, sinister and utterly wicked lyrics, with eerie mechanical scratching notes and riffs, mixed with crazy pseudo jazz riffs and piano. The lyrics are delivered in a most painful and brutal manner, with a slew of unpleasant schizophrenic shrieks which are genuinely cringable.

The effect is not merely vicious and visceral but downright merciless.

The album is an example of alternative, trippy punk. 'Love Rhymes with Hideous Car Accident' is the most sadistic pop song I have heard, added to the disjointed punk soundscape and bewilderingly odd and unnatural vocals, this

punk ballad contribution may take quite a few listens to fully appreciate its underlying compelling and gripping chords. However, the sonic pace and intensity of five minute straight shrieking fits were too much for me to bear, and so I condemn and dismiss this album as painful, hardcore lunacy.



Supersize My TV

By Deirdre Reynolds

YOU wouldn't drink Krystal from a chipped mug so when consuming movies why accept second best? Some films were simply designed for the silver screen and now UCI cinemas have invited us to trade in our crusty couches for the director's chair, if just for an afternoon. Every Tuesday and Sunday afternoon the UCI 'Director's Chair' season presents the finest in flicks from independents to foreign films and arthouse titles, in the environment the director originally intended.

The schedule includes some impressive features that criminally slipped unnoticed from cinematic to video release - Woody Allen's Anything Else for one, a Manhattan sex comedy that (sort of) marked a return to form for the maestro.

Others are the sumptuous Before Sunset and superb Motorcycle Diaries.



Students take note that to celebrate the inaugural Director's Chair season, UCI are offering two tickets for the price of one on all of the movies so there's an even greater incentive to turn off your telly!

Screenings take place at 7pm every Tuesday and 4pm every Sunday in Coolock, Tallaght and Blanchardstown UCI cinemas. The programme for the current Director's Chair season is:

- 14 November - Deep Blue
- 21 November - Anything Else
- 28 November - Sixteen Years of Alcohol
- 05 December - Motorcycle Diaries
- 12 December - Before Sunset
- 19 December - Supersize Me

Hanks honks on the Polar Express

By Eimear O'Reilly

TOM Hanks lends his voice to this enchanting animated story of friendship and the desire to believe in the miracle of Christmas that is Santa.

The story begins on Christmas Eve with our narrator looking back to his childhood. The little boy that he was did not believe in Santa and it looks like it will take something pretty big to change his mind. Cue the Polar Express that pulls up outside his house set to change his mind.

The little boy - we are never told his name - hops aboard after a little friendly persuasion from the conductor and thus begins the adventure. Destination: the North Pole.

Watching this movie you could be forgiven for thinking you're on a roller coaster ride. The Polar Express steam train moves with a style that would make CIE weep and the TGV look like the pony express.

The North Pole looks like a toy factory,

populated by countless, similar, scary-looking elves. Santa does not look like the jolly embodiment of Santa that we would imagine.

Highlights were Aerosmith's Steven Tyler's elfish appearance and also the singing and dancing waiters.

The principle of children's movies that what can go wrong will go wrong applies; example, if you drop something it will fall... out of your reach... and out a window, with disastrous consequences. This makes for some great action scenes.

The technology that was used for creating people based the animated characters on real people. The result is that the characters don't look like real people yet they do not look like your run of the mill cartoon characters either and this leaves them in a scary middle place where they look quite haunting.

This movie will put you in the Christmas spirit and although it does not live up to some more recent cartoon successes, it is still worthy of a Christmas viewing.



Polar Express tipped as this year's x-mas no.1 film

How to save an atomic bomb

Deirdre Reynolds walks down the CD and DVD aisles of HMV and Golden Discs to find some the most entertaining Christmas stocking treats for you.

IT'S an unfortunate condition of human psychology that even the foulest pile of excrement, given the right packaging, makes us foam at the hedonistic mouth. Secure in this knowledge, amoral marketing types annually strike out at our collective Achilles heel. Notoriously, entertainment outlets will swaddle the most God-awful titles from their back catalogue into enough wrapping to make an environmentalist quiver and slap it with a fanatical "Great Gift Idea!" tag.

If you find yourself drunk with gift idea desperation this festive season, DIT Independent says take precautions. Arm yourself against Shock and Awe shopping tactics and embrace your inner Scrooge with our guide to the best and worst of what they'll try to flog you this Christmas. Ba Humbug!

HMV

Step inside the corporate abyss that is HMV, Grafton St. and the left-side of your brain will instruct you to pick up a copy of the "HMV Christmas Gift Guide" featuring their irresistible half-

caste mongrel mascot. But look beyond the pup's vacant stare and you'll notice that the company has cunningly omitted most of the prices. Unsurprisingly, they have dictated that Kylie's Ultimate Collection double-CD (€24.99) and Britney's best-of 'My Prerogative' (€19.99). DVD-wise the 4-disc commemorative copy of LiveAid (€59.99) is the big pitch, as well as new release King Arthur - the Director's Cut (€29.99). The agoraphobia-free who root around long enough will find good value, if not quite bargains, in HMV. If you mix and match one current 'Buy One, Get One Free' offer properly, you can pick up excellent recent releases like 'Lost in Translation' for €15.

Naughty

-Police Academy Complete DVD Collection: was €109.99 (really?) now €69.99 (still robbery)
-Destiny's Child, Destiny Fulfilled: €20.99 (comparable to €14.99 in Golden Discs)
-007 Special Edition DVD collection: €199.99 (it's got all 20 Bond films, for those who care)

Nice

-Monty Python - The Movies (DVD): €39.99
-Spiderman and Spiderman 2

DVD 4-disc box-set: €29.99

-Batman/Lethal Weapon DVD collection: €19.99

-CD of the Week' Eminem, Encore: €14.99

Golden Discs

Usually a high-street student saviour, DIT Independent is sorry to report that Golden Discs is fleecing with the best of them this festive season. Most prices for chart items are just a couple of cents cheaper than HMV, with the Sex and the City 6-series DVD box-set selling for €169.95. This is a particularly unimaginative present that will no doubt be made a bestseller by frantic boyfriends everywhere on December 24th. Likewise girlfriends around the country will be putting in advance orders for The Lord of the Rings DVD Trilogy box-set which, costing €59.95, at least isn't on loop on E4 every night of the week ending in 'day'. But there's less to trawl through here and some good deals to be had. Those willing to resort to a dusty VCR-player for yuletide home entertainment can pick up assorted video titles from 'The Piano' to perennial Christmas favourite 'Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Favourite' for as little as €2.95.

Naughty

-The O.C First Series DVD: €84.95 (we can't believe it either)
-The Muppets Christmas Carol/Elf DVD: €29.95
-The Office Series' 1, 2 and the Christmas specials DVD: €54.95

Nice

-The Exorcist DVD: €8.95 (it may not smack of chestnuts roasting on an open fire, but it's cheap!)
DVD Trio Pack (Narc, Serpico and The Untouchables): €26.95

As ever, Hong Kong internet company CD Wow (www.cdwow.ie) offers Irish consumers the best value in CDs and DVDs. New releases such as Kylie's Ultimate Collection and U2's How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb are priced €13.99 (free delivery), over ten euro cheaper than in the shops, ditto for DVD's. The DVD bargain basement is well worth a browse too with many classic special edition 2-disc titles going for between ten and fifteen euro but be careful to specify 'region 2' when searching the catalogue. Naturally, all of this online bloodsucking requires a credit-card and allow between 6-8 for delivery from the time of dispatch. Stingy Christmas, everyone!

DIT Sports Digest

New Rowing Club

Ben Clarke, sports scholarship recipient and member of the Irish Junior Squad, is organising evening training sessions with his club Commercial Rowing Club as part of the new DIT Rowing Club.

Any student or staff members, from the complete novice to the active rower, who is interested in participating in the club's activities this year can contact Ben by e-mail at angryrower@hotmail.com or by phone on 086 0794703

Athletics

DIT finished 10th overall at the road relays that were held in Maynooth. Gary Hynes was the best performer for the 5 man team.

The Cross Country was cancelled and was due to be held on the 7th of December. A team of six will be there for DIT, with Hynes one of the favourites to win the individual event.

David Gillick of the Athletics Club was also hopeful that DIT would win some medals, particularly in the relay, at the Indoor Intervarsities in Nenagh, which were due to be held December 4th and 5th.

Handball

D.I.T. Handball Club's phenomenal success rate continues unabated. The past month has seen strong performances from club players in all competitions.

The first 40x20 tournament of the year, the prestigious Golden Gloves, was held in Belfast and a number of DIT's top players were in action.

Brian Carroll and Mark McGowan faced off in the quarter final, with the former taking the spoils in an absorbing contest. World Under 17 finalist Carroll was narrowly beaten by the eventual winner in the next round. Cormac Smyth of Wexford is playing fantastic

handball, and also showed prominently up north.

The bi-annual Connaught Open in Roscommon featured a strong line-up from the college. Fit again Padraig Gaffney put on a great show in his comeback event. Mark McGowan reached the last eight, while Brian Carroll was narrowly pipped by one of the country's top players. Dessie Keegan also reached the quarter-final, where he lost to Belfast star Ricky McCann.

Performance of the weekend went to Paul Fitzpatrick, who coasted to the C Singles final, where he lost out to the experienced Paddy Donovan.

Judo

Congratulations to Michael McKenna and Sara McGealy who were amongst the medals in the Waterford Open Competition in November. McGealy won 2 golds in youth and senior grades, while McKenna got silver.

McGealy followed up with another gold in the Leinster Closed Competition a week later.

If you would like your club info included in our next edition e-mail ditsports@campus.ie

Rugby team on a roll

By Padraig Mahon

DIT 5-0 NUI Maynooth 3rd November 2004

Our first match was riddled with mistakes which saw both sides fail to score on various occasions. Two penalty attempts from Dave Lally saw DIT come agonisingly close to taking the lead in the 2nd half but both strayed to the left and wide. Just when it looked like the game was to end in stalemate, however, a Conor Burke lineout won by Andrew Gill on the Maynooth 5 yard line was driven over the line, with Colm Carey getting the all important touchdown. Best for DIT were Tom Quigley, Darran MacNeany & Adam Keys.

DIT 39-10 Portobello 10th November 2004

DIT got off to a lightning start in this game with Alan Lambe and Tom Quigley crossing for great solo tries within 5 minutes of the kick-off. A penalty and try for Portobello seemed to awaken DIT and they pulled away with a Padraig Mahon try after a fantastic break from Tom Quigley. This saw DIT lead at the break 19-10.

Dave Lally opened the second half scoring with a penalty from wide on the right to add to his earlier conversions. Despite the sin-binning of John Donnelan, tries from John Naughton, Tom Quigley (which he also converted) & Romain Foussadier meant DIT ran out easy winner. Quigley, Jérémy Horgues and Cormac Norton were best for DIT.

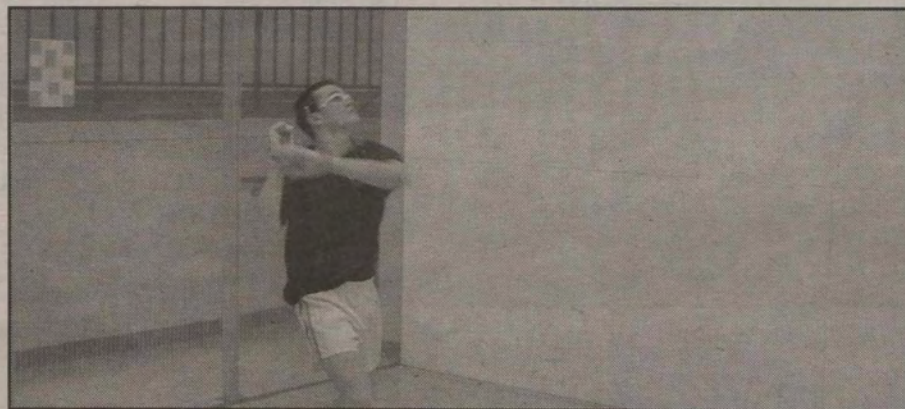
DIT 42-5 Griffith College 24th November 2004

After a fortnight off, DIT made light work of disposing of a poor Griffith XV. Tom Quigley got DIT off the mark with an early try, followed by a fine score from Darran MacNeany after he rounded

the Griffith defence in the corner. An Alan Lambe penalty saw DIT into the break leading 15-0.

Another penalty from Lambe kept the scoreboard ticking over until Andrew Gill went over at the corner after good work from the DIT pack. Gill added his second after running from midfield to cross under the posts. Tries from Tom Malone and Joe Roe, added to 3 conversions from Daire Kilkelly, completed the rout. Romain Foussadier, James Duffy & Paul Lee put in big performances for DIT on the day.

The Freshers O'Boyle Cup commences after Christmas and with a significant number of freshers starting for the Senior XV this season we would hope to be able to field quite a strong side in this competition. New members are always welcome to the club and we would encourage all rugby players in the college (freshers especially) to come along and join up. Congratulations are extended to DIT players John Naughton and Dave Lally for their recent selection for Irish Colleges Trials. The club would also like to thank our sponsors AP Tobin Construction Ltd for their continued support of the club.



A DIT handballer takes to the court

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Ladies go down to second half onslaught

By Nuala Ryan

DIT 1 Maynooth 6

BEFORE this game, DIT ladies soccer coach Stephen Dempsey described his team's encounter with Maynooth ladies - the team that beat DIT to the league title on goal difference last year - as their "toughest match." And although they showed great promise in the

to capitalise. Maynooth were kept in the game by some fine goalkeeping by Linda Meehan, and were lucky to be only a goal behind going into half-time.

The second-half, however, saw a complete turn around in the Maynooth performance.

DIT seemed unsettled from kick-off and never managed to get a foothold in the game after the break.

The girls were unable to close Maynooth down, and were forced back as the visitors piled on the pressure.

Playing uphill and against the wind, conditions did not help DIT. And once the floodgates opened, DIT could do very little to stop the

Maynooth onslaught. When the final whistle blew it was DIT 1 Maynooth 6.

Despite a poor second half, DIT can take a lot of positives from the game. They dominated the first half, and had they taken some of their chances then the final score might not have been as flattering to Maynooth. There was a good all-round team performance in the opening period, as well as some great individual displays. Sam Tsang played well in defence and Rachel Devlan showed great skill.

Coach Dempsey remained upbeat after the match. He said that the girls had looked good in the first half, but should have taken their chances that came their way. Maynooth's coach, Mick O'Shea, said the final score was "not a fair reflection on what is usually their toughest game."

DIT: L Fitzpatrick, O Haskins, S Tsang, S Kristaffidton,

R Devlan, S Mulhall, R Jenkins, M Lyons, A Kelly, S Turnbull, L Holden.

Subs: LMcConnell Walsh, B McGovern, C Rafferty, R O' Dea.



Ladies soccer team

first half, it ultimately turned out to be Maynooth's day.

DIT started this game well however. They played with great confidence in the first half and never gave Maynooth the opportunity to play. Their efforts were rewarded midway through the half when, after some good individual play by Rachel Jenkins and a sweet pass into the box, Ailish Kelly was on hand to slot the ball into the back of the net.

DIT created plenty of chances throughout the half, but were unable



The Ladies in action

Hurlers left cursing their luck

By Arthur Sullivan

Ill-fortune has plagued both the senior and fresher hurlers of DIT in the last month. In their final Division 2 group game against NUI Maynooth, DIT overturned a first half deficit to storm to a stunning 3-11 to 3-7 win with Martin Phelan, Willie Lyons and Eddie Connolly to the fore. Yet, despite not losing a game in the four team group, they bowed out on scoring difference to St. Pats Drumcondra, who now advance to the semi-finals. DIT, however,

have a fine squad and are now training three evenings a week in preparation for the Kehoe Cup and the Fitzgibbon Cup which both commence in January. The freshers are still well on course in their championship. Despite going down by a point to UCD in highly controversial circumstances, they hammered GMIT and were due to face NUI Galway in a major showdown in Galway on Tuesday 30th November, which will ultimately decide

their fate. They will also face Athlone IT in the group but are expected to ease past the midlanders. NUI Galway will provide a stern test for DIT as they have a string of players from Galway's All-Ireland winning minor team. The match against UCD apparently finished in a draw as both UCD and DIT officials kept their own score. However the referee thought differently and gave the win to UCD, claiming that they had scored an extra point.

Gaelic Football Rouond-up

Le Seosamh O Gallunaigh.

AFTER a very successful campaign, the newly formed DIV 3 team, captained by the 'Balbriggan Beast', Jimmy McNulty stand on the threshold of immortality, with only whipping boys of the Division - Griffith College- between them and a place in the Leinster finals.

Victories over Marino College and a quality performance against Tallaght IT in which Jonathon McMurrough, Aiden Tuite, Jason Hurst, Ger Teehan and Thomas Colleary excelled has set the DIV 3 terriers on the road to Leinster glory.

The Intermediates find themselves in a similar position. Great away wins over Jordanstown and Maynooth is testament to the character of the team, and although they lost a close fought match to UCD in Belfield, their future is in their own hands. They must now beat a fancied Athlone I.T. outfit to progress to the Leinster semi-final and all Ireland quarter final. Captain Sean Gilsenan, Willy Dwyer, Will Donnelly, John Donegan and the rest of the squad should have too much class at home for AIT and could go all the way this year.

DIT Seniors chalked up their first win of the season

against Trinity, who they play again in a preliminary round of the O'Byrne Cup on the 8th December in Grangegorman. If DIT can repeat the victory - and manager Seamus Reilly firmly believes they can - then DIT play Louth in the 2nd round in Louth on January 2nd. A win in that game would see DIT face Dublin on January 9th - whether they have a manager by then or not!

By training hard DIT freshers brought a level of consistency to their performance unseen before in these parts. Against Jordanstown, Queens, UCD and Maynooth, DIT Freshers played with a level of commitment and skill that was refreshing to watch and their enthusiasm for the game is infectious. Great players like Emmet Bolton, Michael Hallows, Toasty, Colin Daly, Darragh McEvoy and Greg Quinn certainly caught the eye. And yes, you've guessed, they haven't won a match yet!

On December 10th, DIT Seniors, Intermediates, Ladies and Fresher teams go to London for an all Expenses paid trip. Seniors play London County in Ruislip on Saturday at 2.00pm, while the ladies play St. Mary's. The Intermediates and freshers play Strawberry Hill P.E. College.

Eamon for the top

EAMON Zayed's goals this season helped Bray Wanderers to get promoted to the Eircom League Premier Division. Eoghan Morrissey talks to the free scoring striker who is hoping to fire DIT's soccer team to Collingwood Cup glory.



AS well as being a top striker in the Eircom League, Eamon Zayed is a returning student to DIT. The 21 year-old from Balinteer was studying marketing last year, but dropped out to pursue his football career. After a spell with Crewe Alexandra, Zayed is back on a sports scholarship and is looking to propel DIT to Collingwood Cup success.

He pays tribute to Tony O'Connor and Joe O'Brien for their assistance with the scholarship. The management team have already seen their faith repaid, as the season is progressing well so far for DIT's soccer squad. "Tony O'Connor (DIT's soccer coach) is fairly confident that we can win it [the Collingwood Cup] this year. I'm not sure what the standard is like at the tournament but I know we have a good team so we're capable of winning it," he says. "There's a good spirit in the team. I've only come in for the last two games and got to know everyone so far. The lads have been welcoming and I think we're bonding well. The facilities here are grand.

Grangegorman obviously it doesn't compare to Bray but it's okay."

At underage level, Eamon played for Broadford Rovers and then joined famous southside club St. Joseph's Boys in Sallynoggin. A free-scoring striker, he played at representative level for Dublin and Leinster schools, and soon began attracting attention from scouts in England. He had trials with Premiership clubs whilst in school - including Manchester City - but stayed on to complete his studies.

"I had an offer from Arsenal to sign for three years when I was in fifth year, but my parents wanted me to do my Leaving Cert. I didn't mind because I was still a bit young to go over. In the end I think it worked out because if I had gone over to Arsenal I wouldn't have my Leaving Cert. I know other players who have come back with nothing to fall back on," he says.

After he completed his Leaving Cert, Leicester City - then in the Premiership - took him on. He was there for a year and a half but Leicester were in financial difficulties and the stay ended unhappily for Zayed.

"Peter Taylor was the manager who signed me but within three months he was sacked," Zayed explains. "Another manager came in and we didn't really see eye to eye. At the end of the year he called in all the first team, the reserves and the junior professionals - I was one at the time - and told us the club didn't have the money and we were all on the transfer list."

Eamon was left with an uncertain future. "I was young, only 18 at the time, and didn't know what was going on," he says. Fortunately, he got in touch with Bray Wanderer's manager, Pat Devlin, who offered him a contract.

He has been a big success at Bray. After graduating from the U-21 team, he became the First Division's top scorer in the 2003 season and scored the fastest hat-trick in the club's history, notching three goals in nine minutes against Dundalk. He was also the PFAI Youth player of the year for 2003.

This season his seventeen league goals helped Bray to get promoted to the top flight after narrowly losing out the season before.

Zayed made his Ireland U-20 debut against Korea in a tournament January 2003, scoring two against the United Arab Emirates two days later. He won 10 U-20 caps, and played in all four of Ireland's games in the FIFA World Youth Cup in December 2003.

He made his U-21 debut away against Poland in August 2003 and has now won three caps at this level. "I'm hopeful of playing again, if I keep playing well I'd hope to get a call-up," he says.

In January of this year another opportunity arose to move to England, when Crewe Alexandra took the striker on loan until the end of the season.

"They wanted me over there badly but once I got there it was a different story. It was the Assistant Manager who signed me but I didn't know he had no say in how the team was selected. The manager never gave me a chance. I didn't enjoy it all but that's just the way it works," he explains.

Now back studying at DIT, he is unsure of what the future holds. Out of contract with Bray Wanderers, there is interest from Shamrock Rovers, Bohemians and even the chance of a trial with US Major League team New York Metrostars. "I don't know what I'll do for next season, I'll see what happens. At the moment my priority is the studies but obviously if a good opportunity came up in football I'd take it."



DIT closing in on league title

By Ronan O'Connor

THE DIT men's soccer team has taken a complete stranglehold of CFAI Division 1 South thanks to two home victories this month.

Victories against Waterford IT and Tipperary Institute have given DIT a total of ten points from four games. This means they need only avoid defeat against Carlow IT in their last game to claim the league title.

The Waterford game saw a below par DIT fall behind to a shock goal on the counter attack. However, Waterford were then reduced to ten men after Eamon Zayed was hauled down with the goal gaping. Zayed then dusted himself down to slot away the penalty. A second goal from Zayed, and one from Clive Phillips put DIT 3-1 up at half time.

The second half was a dogged affair that saw Waterford pull one back after Treston gave away a needless penalty. However, Phillips added a late goal to make the result safe.

Wednesday 24th saw the visit of Tipperary Institute, in a game that was dominated from start to finish by the home team. The 7-0 scoreline did not flatter DIT in the slightest as a number of easy chances were spurned by the wasteful attackers. Eamon Zayed opened the scoring with a cool finish from close range, and Johnny Guerin made it two from the penalty spot.

The second half saw a steady flow of goals as DIT turned on the style. Guerin and Zayed both doubled their tallies, with Conor Reid, Shane Brennan and substitute Ed Podger putting a seal on the rout.

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DIT Independent Sport

Ladies realising their potential



By Niamh Egan

FOR the last number of years, a major emphasis has been placed on developing Gaelic games at DIT. While the men's team has showed a serious improvement in recent seasons, their female counterparts are also making great progress.

Within the college there has always been abundance of talented ladies players, but as with many other DIT sports, it is hard to pick these players out and get them onto teams. The success of last year's team may just be the beginning of a new

era for ladies GAA at the college. Record numbers are attending training, and competition for places is creating a necessary tension at these sessions.

Four DIT players are currently on sports scholarships, the largest number on a ladies team for some years. One of these recipients is Karen Morris (Wexford), who was last year named player of the year. Morris has been one of the stars in defence so far this season, while the welcome addition of Roscommon's Emma Corcoran and Wicklow's Janet Marley has

also added strength.

Westmeath's Laura Halligan is showing her continued good form in the full-forward line, but has been ably assisted on the scoring front by Cavan's Cora McCabe, Catherine Corrigan from Monaghan and Meath's Deirdre Ward. Rynagh Kane, a former Mayo player, has also made her mark in attack.

The side have yet to face any real competition, and questions need to be raised about the league system the college is currently partaking in. In the opening game, they overcame a poor Coláiste Íde side that were unable to contain the classy DIT forward line.

Corrigan registered four goals, with Halligan contributing 3-1 and McCabe kicking four points from play. DIT ran out eventual winners on a score line of 9-10 to 0-2.

Their second outing was also a one-sided affair, with the team recording an easy victory over St. Pat's of Carlow. Coach Mick Roddy believes that these two games were important in building confidence in his side. "A side that gets into a rhythm of winning is very hard to beat, and I think it was vital that the

girls began to believe in themselves."

On Monday last, the girls defeated Carlow VS and despite the score line, put in a display that demanded the most of the entire panel. A personal tally of 4-2 from Rynagh Kane helped the side to a 9-10 to 0-3 victory. Goalkeeper, Rachel Knox, has maintained a clean sheet so far this season and is happy with her defence. "They've been the backbone of the side in all the games, and are constantly delivering quality balls to the forwards. We work well as a team and I think the key so far," said

Knox.

The side are now safely through to the semi-final stages, where they meet a Cavan side that will certainly provide a greater test than anything previously encountered.

Coach Roddy, however, is confident his players will continue their efforts for glory. "I know this side can go far, and I think they are starting to realise it too. It's just a matter of maintaining the high intensity at training and going into the next game knowing they're prepared."



'More Commitment' needed for united hockey team

By Isobel Joyce

DIT may be entering a men and women's hockey team into the Intervarsities competition next year. In late November, a group of keen DIT hockey players came together with a view to playing in a more competitive competition than the traditional colleges mixed league and cup.

The turnout was disappointing, however, and Colleges mixed hockey coordinator Seamus Byrne expressed concern at this meeting. He said there would need to be more interest and commitment if DIT were to form a united hockey club and enter teams in the Universities competition.

Perhaps interest is not what it would be if the IT teams were properly recognised. For example, CIT entered a men's side into the Intervarsities this year and should have been in the final having beaten Trinity five goals to four. However, Trinity went through to the final because CIT is not a University. If

DIT is just going to be treated as a "Mickey Mouse" team, people may not be willing to give up a week of college to go to the competition.

Meanwhile, the Colleges mixed hockey league finals were held on the 9th of November. DIT's Kevin Street and Aungier Street made it to this stage.

Kevin Street failed to reach the final, and struggled to get anything more than a few draws in the round robin games. However, there was better news for Aungier Street who only dropped points to CIT and joined them in the final.

In a hard fought final, Aungier Street failed to end CIT's winning streak, losing by two goals to one. Having done so well in the league, Aungier Street may feel hard done by not to make it to the cup competition in February. This is looking likely unless they manage to beat CIT, who they have drawn in the first round.



DIT's Hockey Squad assembles